484939.41 hectare has been brought under afforestation and 3867.83 lakh seedlings were distributed for planting on private land in the last three years under the point on 16 of the 28 Point Programme.

(b) The Department of Wastelands Development has commissioned National Wastelands Identification Project with the collaboration of the National Remote Sensing Agency. Under this Programme 228 districts in the country having more than 5 per cent of the geographical area as wastelands have been mapped. Precise information regarding the whole country including Maharashtra is not available. However, according to one estimate, the extent of wastelands in Maharashtra is 14.48 million hectares.

(c) The Department of Wastelands Development is implementing various programmes for the development of non-forest wastelands through the schemes of Integrated Wastelands Development Projects, Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies, Technology Development and Extension, Investment Promotional Scheme and Wastelands Development Task Force throughout the country including Maharashtra. These schemes are open for implementation by various Government and Voluntary Agencies. Besides these schemes of the Department of Wastelands Development, various other schemes of Government of India such as Drought Prone Areas Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Social Forestry Scheme, are also under implementation through various departments of the Government of India and the State Government. Further, the State Government of Maharashtra has programmes to develop Wastelands on micro watershed basis after doing actual survey in the villages selected under Watershed Conservation Programme. The State Schemes like Employment Guarantee Scheme linked horticulture, and Employment Guarantee Scheme lonked Social Forestry are being used for Development of Wastelands.

Bungling of one Crore Rupees by Engineers of Red

1467. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the newsitem that appeared in the 'Indian Express' of November 8, 1994 regarding bungling of more than one crore rupees of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana funds by two engineers of Rural Engineering Department (RED) at Ranchi in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details and Government reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that neither of them was given even a show cause notice after the fraud was detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter has been referred to the Government of Bihar which is the competent authority in the matter of disciplinary action against State Government officials.

New Schemes based on foreign aid

1468. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are developing any new schemes solely based on foreign aid for the batterment of the living standards in rural areas;

(b) the steps taken to attract help to formulate rural development programmes;

(c) whether it is a fact that local talent is being ignored due to such dependence on foreign agencies; and

(d) to what extent the new schemes will help formulate such plans for rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government is not developing any new schemes solely based on foreign aid for the betterment of living standards in rural areas. However, in respect of certain Projects under Rural Development Programmes like Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and Rural Water Suppy and Sanitation Programmes, some assistance is available from United National Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organisation (WHO) in time to time.

UNDP Assistance .. ..

1469. SHRI V. RAJAN CHALLAPPA. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the efforts to obtain the UNDP assistance have succeeded;

(b) whether emphasis on foreign travel and consultancies has been reduced; and

(c) if not, who will benefit from such UNDP schemes for rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Sir, This Ministry has not sought any assistance from UNDP so far.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Targets set under JRY

1470. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, State-wise, during the last three years;

(b) how far these have been achieved; and

(c) the steps taken for effective implementation of the Programme, especially in backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Statewise employment generation targets fixed and the achievements made under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) during the last three years are given in statement. (*See* below)

(c) For effective implementation of JRY in the country, including the backward areas, the quantitative and qualitative implementation is monitored regularly. At the Central level, the implementation of JRY is reviewed through monthy, quarterly and annual progress reports, received from the State Governments, Besides Officers at the Centre, ,State Headquarters and districts, sub-divisions and block levels closely monitor all aspects of the programmes through visits to worksites . State Level Co-ordination Committee (SLCC) for rural development programmes also monitors the progress of implementation of JRY alongwith other schemes.

The Government of India also periodically review the programmes with the State Government officers with a view to effecting improvement in the quality of implementation.

Recently, the Ministry has also introduced the Area Officers Scheme in which Teams have been formed of the senior officers of the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Programme Implementation and the Planning Commission. Each Team has been allocated one or two States where they visit regularly and give feed back on implementation of rural development programmes.